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Plan On Having A Grand Time In Grand Rivers

written by: Jennifer Wheatley

Grand Rivers, Kentucky, is an idyllic, welcoming tourist destination that sits on the north end of Land Between the Lakes and features some of the most distinctive attractions around the 178,000 acre national recreation area. A recent visitor said “I absolutely love this little town. I always refer to it as a Hallmark movie town!” It is a sentiment shared by many, as Grand Rivers receives over 350,000 visitors a year.

Grand Rivers is best known as the home of Patti’s

1880s Settlement, a restaurant once named the best non-chain in the Southeast by Southern Living magazine. It is famous for two inch pork chops, “mile high” meringue on an assortment of mouth-watering pies and incredible service. What began as a small family eatery has grown into one of Western Kentucky’s most noted attractions.

A fire a few years ago threatened this treasure, but the rebuild has turned out to be an extraordinary new beginning. A video “The Evolution of a Dream,” chronicles the events, from destruction to the installation of furnishings and the welcoming of guests. The new building features a huge open atrium and a drop off for bus riders, but the collection of dining rooms format remains. Now each room is themed, including one with a museum worthy collection of US Presidential framed letters and another with family photos.

The down time between the fire and the unveiling of the new format created an opportunity for creative thinking. A food truck next to the restaurant site served sandwiches and chips and a new restaurant, T Lawson’s Grill, opened across the street. T Lawson’s is a pub with amazing food and a brass bar. The relaxed atmosphere is more conducive to individuals and families than groups, but the creatively prepared high quality food is still pure Patti’s style.

The shops which surrounded the restaurant are back too, including a new full boutique liquor store, Calvin Swine Moonshine. There are free daily moonshine tastings and it is available for sale online as well. Be sure and ask for the story behind the name, which is based on a pig who was dressed up, walked through the streets on a leash and was supposedly fond of “shine.” Across the street from Patti’s is the Badgett Playhouse,

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a Branson-style family venue that features comedy and musical performances designed to please. Offerings include everything from musical murder mysteries that have lots of audience participation to spectacles with the music of the 1970s or 80s. Every show is professionally produced and affordable for the whole family or group. There are also dinner theaters, country music and gospel shows and holiday

events. Owner Bill Minihan and his troupe never disappoint. For tickets or more information, go to www.badgett-playhouse.com.

The Rose of the Lake Bed and Breakfast is located at 293 Lawson Avenue in Grand Rivers. It offers non-smoking, suites and family rooms and the amenities include a pool. The staff invites you to “a piece of heaven, quiet, romantic and a golf cart ride to everything in beau-

tiful Grand Rivers, Kentucky...” The inn offers “a hill top location overlooking Green Turtle Bay Resort & Marina on magnificent Lake Barkley.” For more information, call 270.362.3233 or visit their Facebook page.

For more information about this charming village, including a vacation planner and visitor’s guide, email info@granddrivers.org or call 270.362.0152. The

tourism office is located at 1858 JH O’Bryan Avenue in Grand Rivers, Kentucky, 42045.

The office is open 8 am – 4 pm Monday – Friday and on Saturdays from 9 am – 1 pm Memorial Day through Labor Day and Monday – Friday 8 am to 4 pm Labor Day to Memorial Day, but is closed December 23 – January 2. Director Brian McDonald is a wealth of information!



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A collage of images showing various items for sale, including a lamp, a clock, and a basket of fruit. The text "Life is Better at the Lake!" is at the top in a large, stylized font. Below it is the name "Lura Lee's" and "Of Paris". At the bottom is the address and phone number. There are also social media icons for Facebook and Instagram.

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A collage of images showing various food items, including a burger, a sandwich, and a plate of food. The text "ONE STOP SHOP FOR GAS, FOOD, & DRINKS ON YOUR WAY TO KY LAKE!" is at the top in a large, bold font. Below it are several lines of text listing various food items and services. At the bottom is the name "Irolinger's BBQ" and the address. There is also a small logo for "100 YEARS" and a picture of a pig.



A 200th Anniversary

Deserves A 2 Year Long Party

“Somewhere at the intersection of history, community pride and a fun celebration lies what could be the biggest events in Henry County in the next two years - the Paris-Henry County Bicentennial.”

written by: Jennifer Wheatley

Celebrating a bicentennial requires some planning and Paris and Henry County have chosen to party together! The respective birthdays happen two years apart, so the city (September 23, 1823) and county (November 7, 1821) are planning a two year party that includes every community in the county. Colorful Henry County shaped “200” signs

have already gone up.

The Paris-Henry County Heritage Center is serving as headquarters for all of the events. The website is www.parishenryco200.com. There is also a Facebook page, which includes videos celebrating “People*Places*Progress 1822-1922”. The phone number is 731.642.1030.

Downtown Paris artist Dan Knowles is painting a mural.

Merchandise, including t-shirts, tumblers and hats, is available at the Heritage Center, Lura Lee’s and Bo and Co. Boutique.

Former City Manager Carl Holder, who has also served as chairperson of the Heritage Center board, and City Commissioner

Jackie Jones are leading a 12 person planning committee. The website says “Somewhere at the intersection of history, community pride and a fun celebration lies what could be the biggest events in Henry County in the next two years - the Paris-Henry County Bicentennial.”

The festivities began with a

Founder’s Day last November, which included a tree planting and community choir. Proclamations were made by County Mayor John Penn Ridgeway and City Mayor Carlton Gerrell. County Historian David Webb served as master of ceremonies. Jeremy O’Neal led the choir and Troy Barrow read “Trees We Will Never Climb.”

A series of “Lunch and Learn” events are planned throughout the celebration, including:

Friday, March 11 – The Story of Henry and Its Kissing Cousins, told by Charlotte Barnes

Friday, April 1 – The Lore of Buchanan, Its Story, Then and Now, told by Dr. Jeffrey Morris

Friday, April 22 – The Charming Name and Charming Story of Cottage Grove, told by June Kemp

Friday, May 20 – Treasure at Our Feet, the Intriguing Story of an International Industry Created from West Tennessee Ball Clay, presented by Phillip Boyd

Saturday, June 4 – Unsung Heroes – The Story of a Local Firefighter Whose Initiative Changed Firefight-

ing Forever and Other Stories of Valor, told by Suzanne Richter

Each luncheon will have limited seating of 25 and reservations may be made by calling the Heritage Center. A suggested donation for each lunch is \$20.

There was also an African-American musical “We’ve Come A Long Way” at the Krider Performing Arts Center. The Paris-Henry County Arts Council contributed by sponsoring a Writer’s Competition for short stories with an historical theme. The WG Rhea Library created a story book trail at Eiffel Tower Park. Stephanie Tayloe and the Henry County Archives served as one of the collection spots for family stories.

Another big aspect of the event will

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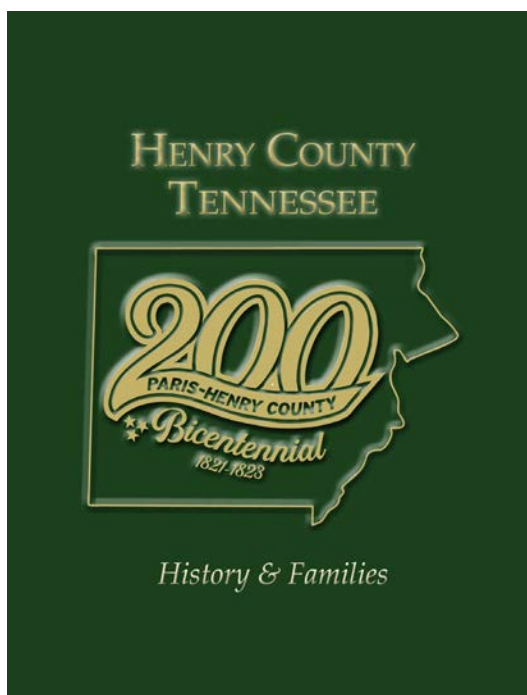


be the publication of a family history book "covering all aspects of the local communities, churches, businesses, farms, organizations and more." The Henry County Tennessee Family History Book will "contain material from 1821 – 2023, with approximately 200 to 300 pages." It is being pre-sold and more information is available on

the website. Acclaim Press is the publisher. County Historian David Webb shares online that Henry County "was named in honor of Revolutionary War patriot and statesman Patrick Henry. Henry County became the gateway for the settlement of West Tennessee and beyond. The town of Paris

was established as the county seat... and became West Tennessee's oldest municipality. The town was named for the French capital in honor of Marquis de Lafayette, who visited Tennessee in the early 1800s...."

Jackie Jones says the group is always looking for volunteers and welcomes community input.



Don't forget to wear green! Irish Day, organized by the Houston County Chamber of Commerce in Erin, Tennessee, is planned for the week of March 14, 2022. Everyone is encouraged to be Irish for the day, but the spirit of the festival infuses the whole community throughout the year. The welcome signs describe Houston County as "A Bit of Ireland in Tennessee" and encourage everyone to help keep it "clean and green".

The event started in 1963. O.S. Luton and Beverly Price wanted to plan an

event that celebrated the history and traditions of Erin. The intent was to focus on the welfare, progress and promotion of the town and county. It was not immediately popular, as some citizens felt it was too much for their little town, but with the support of the Chamber, local leaders and a core group of volunteers, the celebration began to grow. It was featured in The Tennessean, with lots of photos, as early as 1964. The "Wearing of the Green" was a hit right away and other events such as the Grand Parade, Leprechaun

Parade, banquets, carnival rides, pageants and arts and crafts were added along the way, along with lots of food vendors. (Be careful during the Leprechaun Parade, sometimes those little green folks have water guns filled with green water, and they have a reputation for being a bit naughty!)

Past events have also included a kick-off breakfast, the election of a Lord High Mayor, bass tournaments, concerts, auctions, a potato bar, pancake breakfasts and demolition derbies.

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This year’s Grand Parade, which follows the week of activities, is scheduled for Saturday, March 19, 2022. The theme is “Irish Day Celebration Back on Track in ‘22”. The parade begins at the Houston County Middle School and travels to the Houston County Community Hospital. The carnival is on

Front Street, while the food and craft vendors are set up on the Erin Square, Front Street, Spring Street and Atkins Street. Entertainment is on the Erin Square Stage. Approximately 5000 people typically attend Irish Day. It is frequently listed among the family friendly St. Patrick’s Day events


for Nashville and surrounding communities. It has been noted as one of the best rural Irish celebrations east of Chicago. Past themes have included “Get Your Shamrock On,” “Erin Tennessee Is the Place to Be on Irish Day 2017,” “When I-Rish Upon a Shamrock,” “Roots

of the Irish Run Deep,” “20/20: A Wee Bit of Ireland in Tennessee,” and “Houston County’s 150th Birthday.” The Middle Tennessee Tourism Council describes Erin as “a charming county seat” with “many unique shops including antiques and an old-fashioned flea market. A two mile

walking trail and city park are located in the downtown area. Several restaurants and bed & breakfast lodging are also found downtown.” Several lime kilns from the 1870s remain. MTTC goes on to encourage visitors, but warning them to be prepared for the “mystique and magic” of Houston County’s “beauty


and friendliness”. The Chamber’s website says “From wee tots to wise old leprechauns, we have something for everyone. We invite you to join us in our celebration of heritage, family and fun!” For more information, reach out to the Houston County Chamber of Commerce at www.houstoncountychamber.com.

There are links for vendor information, parade information, maps, an event schedule and local lodging on their website. Their email is houston-countychamber@gmail.com. Please be aware of the Covid-19 pandemic status and current CDC guidelines as you plan.




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After a two year hiatus due to the COVID19 pandemic, the Bull Blowout returned to the Cherry Expo Center in Murray, Kentucky. Audiences packed the grandstands on Friday, February 11th as well as the following Saturday

in what organizer Penny Parsons called a spectacular turnout.

The main event at the Bull Blowout is, of course, bull riding. Referred to as ‘the most dangerous eight seconds in sports’, bull riding can be traced

back to Mexican contests of equestrian and ranching skills known as charreada. As hispanic cattle hands traveled north into California and Texas as they brought the contests with them, where they were of interest to their Anglo coworkers. There were many organized competitions through the 1800s and into the early 20th century,

eventually leading to the creation of the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association in the 1930s. Both the PRCA and the Professional Bull Riders organize several bull riding events in modern times, overseeing judging the individual riders. While the Murray Bull Blowout is put on by Parsons and Milam Roughstock

Contractors and Promoters, they abide by the PRCA rulebook when it comes to scoring points.

In addition to bull riding, barrel racing is a large part of the activities at the Bull Blowout. An equestrian competition that involves galloping around barrels in a cloverleaf pattern, barrel racing was

developed as an event for women. Today it is usually open to all genders, and a part of most rodeo events. This is a timed event, often requiring an electric eye to capture the most accurate speeds. It places a rider’s horsemanship on full display, as well as the speed, agility, and intelligence of their mount.

One of the less strictly organized events at the Bull Blowout is the mutton busting. Introduced in the 1980s, mutton busting is a children’s event with no overarching national regulations. In it, sheep are held still while children are placed on their backs in a riding position. Once freed the sheep generally take off at a run in an attempt to shake the child off. Much like a cross between bull riding and barrel racing this event is timed,

the winner being the child who is able to hold on the longest. Another event for under-age participants is the calf scramble. In it a large group of calves and an even larger group of teenagers are let loose into the ring. The teenagers then attempt to rope, halter, and then coax a calf into a specific area of the ring. It is generally a chaotic, exciting event.

While many of the participants of the Bull Blowout were from Western Kentucky this year, there were also a great deal of competitors from out of town. People traveled from Tennessee, Indiana, Missouri, and as far away as Alberta, Canada. All of the out of state competitors are expected to be back next year for the 2023 Bull Blowout as well.

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Organized by the Paris-Henry County Jaycees, the World's Biggest Fish Fry is Paris Tennessee's signature event. It is scheduled for April 23 - 30, 2022. People love the carnival, rodeo and other festivities, but the longest lines are always around the fish tent. Fried catfish and all the trimmings have not actually been prepared in a tent for years. The Bobby Cox Memorial is now housed in the Commercial building at the Henry County Fairgrounds, 517 Royal Oak Drive, in Paris. Plans are already set for over 12,500 pounds to be served this year, along with french fries, cole slaw, hushpuppies and white beans. The Fish Tent traditionally opens on the Wednesday (April 27th this year) of Fish Fry week and food is served each evening through Friday and beginning at 11 am on Saturday (April 30th).

It is not uncommon for folks to plan their vacations and family reunions around Fish Fry and making their way to the hot fish and fixings is a priority. Generations of families have made visiting the Fish Tent together part of their annual gatherings. Grown children return and share their traditions with their own little ones.

Southernthing.com writer Kelly Kazak says "It's no secret southerners love food. We eat for comfort, we eat to celebrate, we eat because our food is so yummy. So it should come as no surprise that we also love food festivals." This will be the 69th year that people have been enjoying the crispy fish at the World's Biggest Fish Fry.

Eating is not the only way to enjoy the Fish Tent. Local organizations begin signing up to take their turn serving early in the spring. Many groups,

from elected officials to downtown merchants, want to serve the same night they have scheduled for years. It's not just the joy of handing over the yummy plate to the diners, it is an opportunity for people who work or worship or serve together to bond in a new way. The empty plate gets each item added until it's overflowing and lots of fun conversation happens in that line. There are also volunteers who are working tirelessly cooking, keeping the serving trays full and hardly ever grabbing even a hushpuppy for themselves. (Don't fall for that, Dr. Jeff Morris and crew are hushpuppy experts and their results are delicious!) There are always Jaycees there too, thanking everyone, selling some merchandise and staffing the cash register.

A review left on the World's Biggest Fish Fry's Face-

book page said "Oh my goodness! The fish was AMAZING! Cooked to PERFECTION!!! The vinegar slaw and beans were delicious and the fries and hushpuppies were good too!"

The fried catfish got a mention in another comment saying "Fun for everyone! Such a great week filled with CATFISH of all kinds....everywhere!!! Jaycees do an awesome job!"

Another one said "Great community event and the

hushpuppies are great!!!!"

One of Fish Fry's sweetest traditions happens in the Fish Tent and it is all about a hushpuppy. Before the first diner is served, the Hostess Princess tosses the hot Southern delicacy to her daddy. The moment between a local beauty queen

in a tiara and a proud papa is an emotional one. It is a photo opportunity for both momma and the local media, but is also the signal to everyone that it's time to eat!

For more information, contact the Paris-Henry County Jaycees at 731.644.1143, after

late March. Their mailing address is PO Box 444, Paris, Tennessee, 38242. Pageant and other forms are available at the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce website, www.paristnchamber.com.



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Land Between the Lakes

Is All About Playing Outside

written by: Jennifer Wheatley



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Four major tourist attractions are aligned along the 40 mile Woodlands Trace National Scenic Byway which bisects Land Between the Lakes National Recreation E Area north to south, the Woodlands Nature Station, an Elk and Bison Prairie, the Golden Pond Visitor Center, Planetarium and Observatory and the Homeplace 1850s Working Farm and Living History Museum. Land Between the Lakes spans 178,000 acres in Western

Kentucky and West Tennessee.

A pair of red wolves make the Woodlands Nature Station their home, along with an eagle, coyotes, deer, birds of prey and many other species. There is also a beautiful backyard garden and ongoing special programming to introduce adults and little ones to indigenous species, habitats and conservation efforts. Cool Critters Day, the Hummingbird Festival and many other opportunities

await visitors. The staff is friendly, well-trained and enthusiastic about every guest. Many of the events are geared toward children and families, but there are also special wildlife photography hours, eagle viewing tours and sunset canoe and kayak trips. School and other groups are welcome and birthday parties can be arranged. The Nature Station is located at 3146 Silver Trail Road, Cadiz, Kentucky, 42211. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for

youth 5-7. Ages 4 and under are free. Higher rates apply to some special events. It is open 7 days a week, 10 am – 5 pm, April – October.

LBL's Elk and Bison Prairie is a 700 acre enclosure with a native grassland habitat that would have been common in Kentucky more than a century ago. Visitors can drive a 3.5 mile paved loop road to view the elk and bison herds housed within the facility. A special group of volunteers, the

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Bugle Corps, work inside the prairie to enhance visitor experiences and share information. The group is coordinated by the Friends of Land Between the Lakes. Addressing safety concerns, visiting vehicles must be enclosed. Pedestrians, motorcycles and bicycles are not allowed. Cost is \$5 for each automobile at the entry kiosk. It is open dawn to dusk, seven days a week.

Conveniently located in the center of Land Between the Lakes and just off Highway 68/80, the Golden Pond Visitor Center, Planetarium and Observatory is an information hub, with brochures, maps, clean restrooms, soda machines, a gift shop, children's play area, pavillion, trail

heads and a recycling center. There is also an exhibit room of historic photographs showing the history of the area and the impact of the dams on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers. A special video explores the 50th anniversary of Land Between the Lakes. The Planetarium offers educational entertainment hourly and weekend laser shows. The West Kentucky Amateur Astronomers plan special programming at the observatory to allow visitors access to a telescope. The address is 238 Visitor Center Drive, Golden Pond, Kentucky, 42211. Information is also available at welcome station location at the north and south of the property.

The Homeplace 1850s represents a two generation family farm. Interpreters are in period costume and while there are demonstrations, the majority of the work shown is done when and as it would have been in the 19th century. The gardens, animals and domestic chores are seasonal and performed as needed. The interpreters are professionals who bring a sense of realism and education to every encounter, from the farming to the quilting. The walk from the entrance, where there are restrooms and a gift shop, to the farm is like taking a step back in time. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for youth 5-7. Ages



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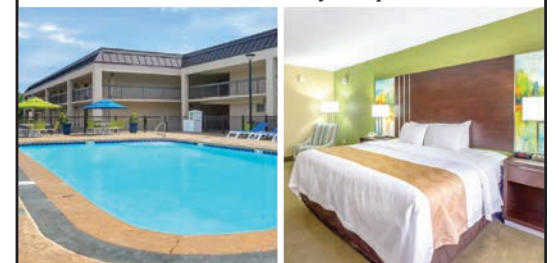


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MEMORIAL
March 5, 1963
written by: Jennifer Wheatley

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Designed to commemorate the site of a plane crash that took the lives of country music legends, the Patsy Cline Memorial is located at 2082 Mt. Carmel Road in Camden, Tennessee. Along with “Crazy” vocalist Cline, Cowboy Copas, Hawkshaw Hawkins and their pilot, Randy Hughes, were killed on March 5, 1963, returning to Nashville following a benefit concert.

A recent visitor said the memorial was “absolutely amazing” and “we even danced in the gazebo to Patsy Cline and no one else was there...” He described the

location as “peaceful and well kept...” Atlas Obscura says “What the site lacks in grandeur it makes up for in an atmosphere of quiet reflection.”

An engraved rock marks the spot, along with a kiosk, walkway, cross and fan memorials. The site is nestled in a setting described as ‘somber.’ There is no admission fee and it is open year round. There is no lighting. ADA accessibility can be hindered by rain. For more information, contact the Benton County/ Camden Chamber of Commerce at 731.584.8395 or visit www.bentoncountycamden.com.



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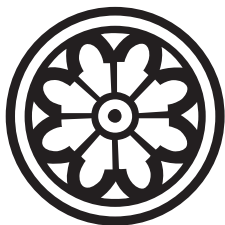
written by: Jennifer Wheatley

The Paris-Henry County Heritage Center, located at 614 North Poplar Street in Downtown Paris, is dedicated to the history of the city and county. Suzy Heron serves as the executive director. Housed in Cavitt Place, an historical Italian Revival mansion built in 1916. The facility serves as museum and cultural center, housing artifacts and memorabilia, and as a venue for special events. It is supported by community grants, as well as individual and corporate contributions. Exhibits may be local or visiting and there is an ongoing Lunch and Learn activity. The Heritage Center is now serving as the headquarters for the city and county's bicentennial celebrations.

Cavitt Place was built by Colonel O.C. Barton, a business man and philanthropist, who enjoyed it with his wife Tillie and their children. It has since served as an Army office during World War II,

the county health department and the offices of TVA. It has been described as 'the jewel of West Tennessee'.

For more information or current operating hours, visit www.phchc.com or call 731.642.1030. The facility invites everyone to "come make a little history with us".



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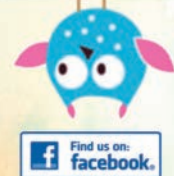
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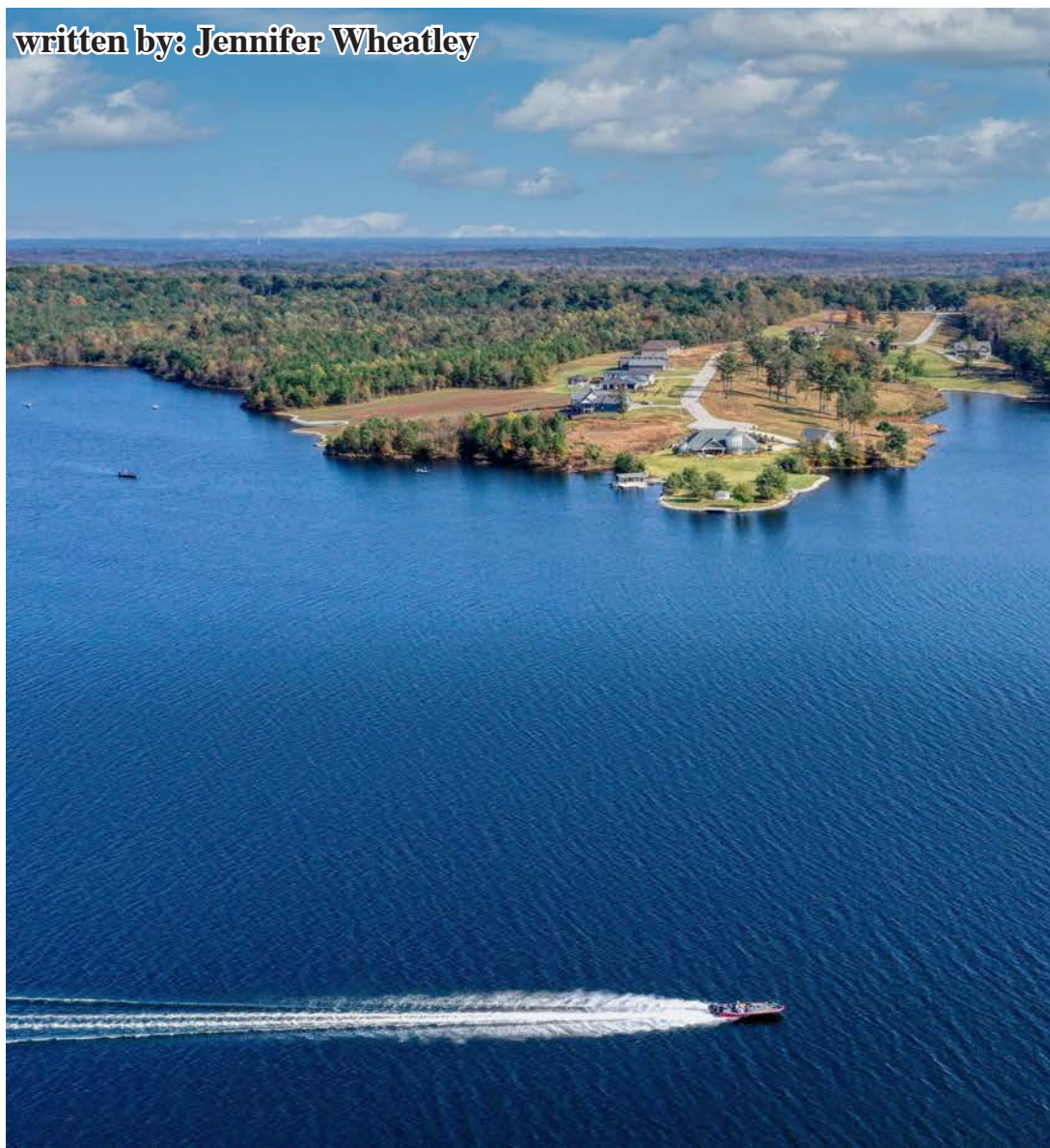
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written by: Jennifer Wheatley



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southern third serving as a no wake zone for fishing only. Fishing is allowed within the water sports area as well. Fishing from the dam and swimming areas is prohibited.

A lake use permit is required for fishing, swimming, sunbathing, water skiing and wakeboarding. A Tennessee fishing license is required to fish.

Several large fishing tournaments

have already been staged on the 1,000 Acre Lake, including the 2021 Mossy Oak Bassmaster Junior National Championship, which featured 62 young anglers.

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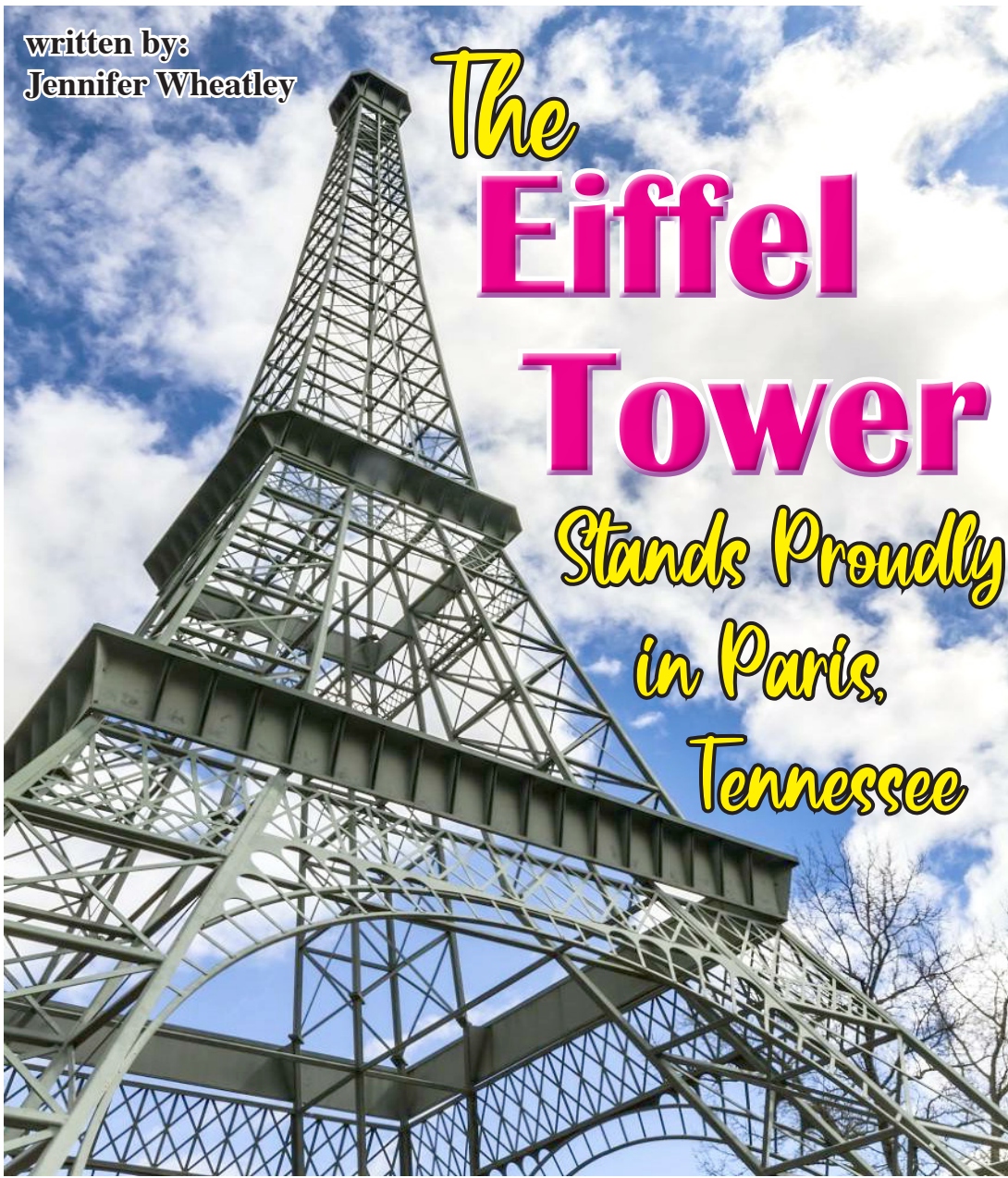
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written by:
Jennifer Wheatley

The Eiffel Tower Stands Proudly in Paris, Tennessee



The story of how a replica of the Eiffel Tower came to stand in a park in West Tennessee is really the tale of a small city embracing its namesake and adopting a symbol.

Engineering students at Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tennessee, constructed a wooden replica of the famous tower as part of a Memphis in May celebration in 1990. After the festival, it became a little

too popular with students who were climbing it despite it being a temporary structure. Christian Brothers offered the tower to Paris, Tennessee, where it was placed in what was then called Memorial Park. The structure was eventually rebuilt in steel by Keith Jackson, owner of Precision Grinding and Machine, on behalf of the City of Paris.

Memorial Park was eventually renamed Eiffel Tower Park

as the replica became a tourist attraction and was used extensively by city entities and the business community to brand themselves. Lighting enhancements were added in 2017 and the tower can now reflect seasons, athletic competitions and other causes. A lit replica of Santa climbing the structure was part of the Christmas celebration in 2021.

The tower is maintained by the City of Paris.



Music Festival Becomes The Lake's Newest Signature Event

written by: Jennifer Wheatley

Lovers of live music should be looking forward to this summer in Paris, Tennessee. Come June the whole city will be rocking out to the many artists playing in various concerts at the Tennessee River Jam, both on the water and on the shore.

Despite its name, the River Jam plans to kick off on land. June 16th will see the Marshall Tucker Band playing a free concert in downtown Paris on the court square. The Marshall Tucker Band has a sound that incorporates rock

with country, blues and jazz; three staples of southern music. They are known for their hits “Can’t You See” and “Heard It In A Love Song”. The band agreed to headline the River Jam last October, and more artists are expected to be an-



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nounced by the end of March.

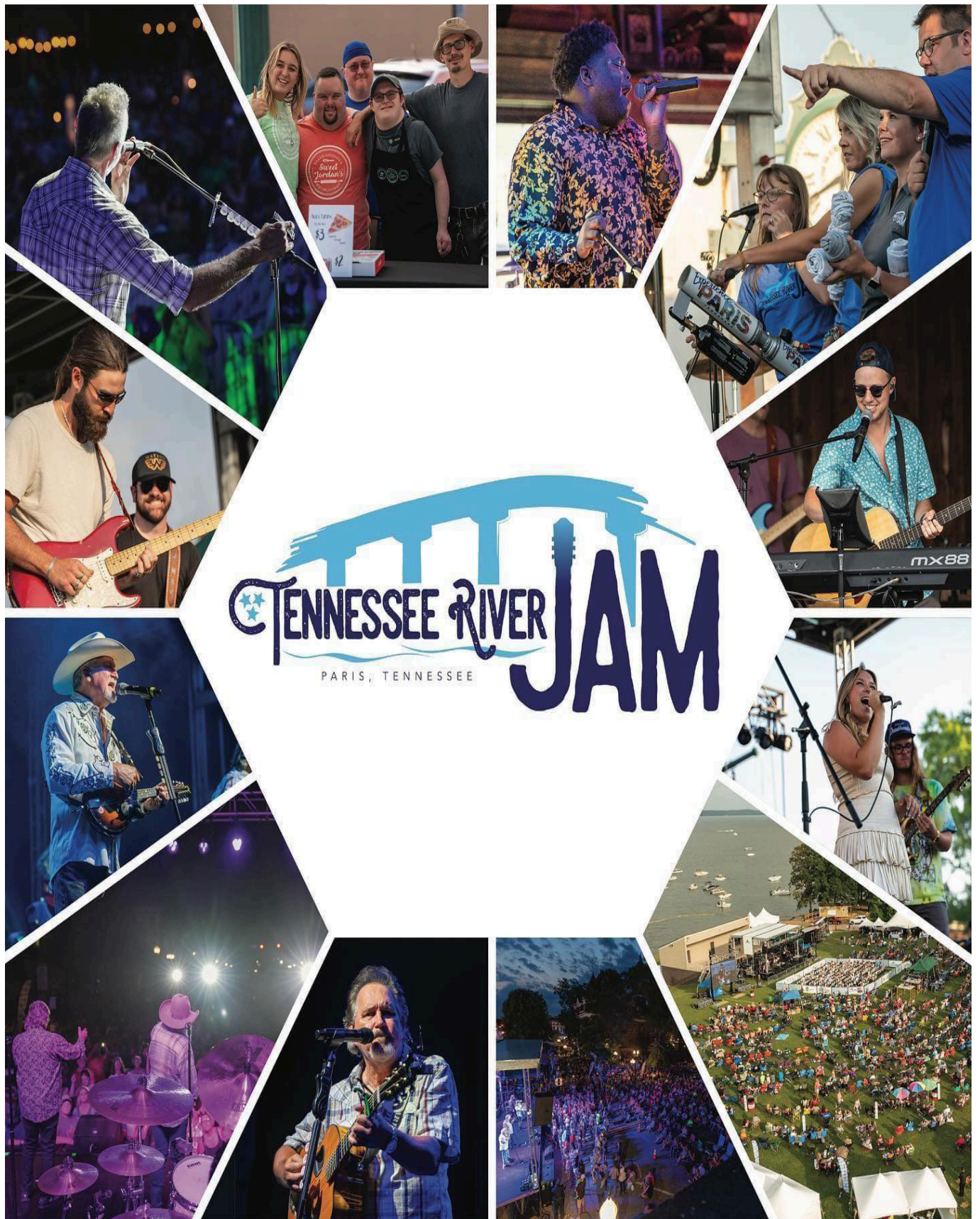
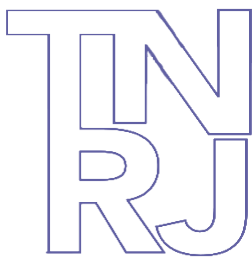
However, the four day event hardly ends on the court square. Though there is not yet a schedule published for 2022, last year's River Jam included locations such as Eiffel Tower Park, The Breakers, and Blues Landing. With so many beautiful places to showcase in the area, there's no doubt that there will also be a variety of venues this year as well.

The third day of the River Jam rocks out with particular style. Though no headlining act has been announced at the time of writing, June 18th will presumably parallel the previous year's concert held at Paris Landing State Park. Last year's event had an excellent turnout, with tickets selling out fast. Those tickets were for either general admission to the venue on the

shore, or for VIP access that included better seating among other perks. But, being the River Jam, those with boats were welcome to anchor where they could hear the music for no charge.

Last year's River Jam wrapped up with a handful of lovely free concerts over the course of Sunday afternoon.

Though tickets for the Paris Landing concert are not yet on sale, tnriverjam.com is the website to watch. Last year admissions to the concert sold out, so be sure not to dawdle when they do become available. For less technically savvy interested parties, the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce will also likely be selling tickets.



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written by:
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A celebration of the signing of The Declaration of Independence, the 4th of July is a national holiday of great importance to us all. There are several events planned for 4th of July in Murray, Kentucky this year, almost all of which are freely open to the public. Over the course of the week-end there are a half dozen activities planned for their Freedom Fest.

The first thing scheduled for Friday, July the 3rd is a veteran's remembrance ceremony. This starts bright and early at 7am in Chestnut Park. Attendees will gather around the Veteran's memorial there to honor the men and women who have served our nation in the armed forces.

Afterwards, the First Methodist Church is proud to host Boy Scout Troop 45 and their annual fundraiser breakfast in remembrance of Gary Taylor. Open from 7am to 9:30am, tickets for the breakfast are ten dollars for adults and five

dollars for children twelve and under. Though the menu has not yet been announced, there will be to-go options available.

At 9:30 the FNB Freedom Fest Parade begins. The public is welcome to bring their own chairs and set up along Main Street in Murray. Community organizers and businesses decorate floats, cars, and trailers in festive designs, traveling along Main Street between Tenth and Third until around noon.

The following day sees a continuation of festivities with Murray Bank Family Night in Chestnut Park. Starting at 5:30, activities include a petting zoo, face painting, inflatables, and several vendors. This three hour event is designed to be a family friendly way to spend the 4th of July evening.

Should the park prove to be too crowded for some, there is live music playing on the Lovett Auditorium Lawn. Beginning at 6:30pm, the public is invited to bring

chairs and snacks to listen to the free concert. The band playing has not been announced at the time of writing.

The Murray Freedom Fest culminates with a firework show that starts at 9:30pm. Put on by the Murray Bank, this firework extravaganza can be seen all along highway 641 near Walmart, Kroger, and the Murray-Calloway Chamber of Commerce.



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Summer Is Not Over Until the Water Fun Run

written by: Alsey Wheatley

Sponsored by the Paris-Henry County Chamber of commerce, the Water Fun Run is a boating event held on Kentucky Lake. Participants travel between the different marinas, resorts, and restaurants on the water, in the hopes of collecting enough stamps to win one

of three prizes.

Boating on Kentucky Lake is a pastime enjoyed by a myriad of people, and this event takes full advantage of the two hundred and fifty square miles of beautiful water. Collecting the stamps to play is simple. Once on the water, boaters

travel to different participating attractions across Kentucky Lake where volunteers will be standing ready when they arrive, ink pads in hand. Players will receive stamps on their play packet, proving they made it to the stop in question.



Many people who join the Water Fun Run team up to hit as many stops as possible, piling into a single boat for a day spent on the water.

Each stamp that players receive will be counted up at the final check in station later that day. Depending on how many stamps they have received they will be dealt playing cards at random. With the cards dealt to them they must then configure the best poker hand they can to win. The

more stops a player makes it to the better odds they have of winning, but it's only necessary to make it to five in order to deal a full legal hand.

The many different Water Fun Run stops vary from year to year. This year's stops have not been announced as of

writing this article, however there are a few usual locations. Buchanan Resort, Fat Daddy's, and Paris Landing State Park are generally all stops on the Water Fun Run. Additionally, there is a traveling party boat on Kentucky Lake. They have their own stamp to hand out, if players can manage to hunt them down and get it.

Though the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce has yet to announce this year's Water Fun Run, play packets have historically been available

for only \$25 to anyone who is at least eighteen years old. These can be bought at the Chamber of Commerce itself, as well as with this year's as yet unannounced sponsor for the event. As for the prizes handed out, there is a grand prize for the best assembled poker hand, as well as ones for second and third place.

Many people who join the Water Fun Run team up to hit as many stops as possible, piling into a single boat for a day spent on the water.



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It Takes Music, Food & Lots of Fun to Party With The Soybean

written by: Jennifer Wheatley

A twenty eight year tradition, the Soybean Festival in Martin, Tennessee is set for September 7th through the 10th this year. A celebration of both the crop and the people who farm it, the festival unites the University of Tennessee at Martin with local businesses, agriculturalists, churches, and other organizations to make this event the showstopper it has grown to become.

Boasting celebrity performers like Tim McGraw and Suzy Bogguss, the first Soybean Festival was kicked off by both local leaders and UT Martin in 1994. Organizers of particular note included Dr. Jerry Gresham, Mayor Larry Taylor, and Park Wells of the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Council. They, along with several others, brainstormed the events that eventually developed into the largest tourist attraction in Martin Tennessee. Those events included a cheerleading competition and an antique tractor pull, as well as a tour of UT Martin.

These days the festival has grown exponentially, but it still charmingly harkens back to those early days. There is still an annual truck and tractor pull, along with more modern traditions. Among those are the annual Chicken Crazy Hog Wild BBQ free community meal and a Sandwich Eating Contest held in Virginia Weldon Park. Other attractions include a carnival with rides, sidewalk sales, and a concert held downtown.

One of the biggest attractions is the Soybean Parade. Stretching down University and Lindell streets, the parade is a staple of Martin. Featuring floats, trucks, marching bands, and other walkers, the parade takes place on the fourth day of the festival. Visitors are free to bring chairs and station themselves along the almost mile long route, enjoying the people and vehicles passing by in their best parade outfits and decorations.

With so many amazing events, the Soybean festival

couldn't go unrecognized by organizers in the region. In 2019 they won a total of nine medals from the Southeast Festival and Events Association Conference hosted in Pigeon Forge,

Tennessee. Of those medals five were gold, including Best Marketing Campaign, Best Print Ad, Best Children's Programming, Best Social Media Marketing, and Best TV Ad or

Public Service Announcement. They also took silver medals for Best Festival Overall, Best Festival or Event Website, Best Promotional Poster, and bronze for Best Volunteer.



It takes a great deal of effort to put together such an excellent, award winning festival. To that end, each year the Soybean Festival recognizes a person or group that has gone above and beyond in organizing the event. This is 'The Big Bean Award'. It has been given every year since 2001 with the exception of 2020 when the

festival went on a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Visitors from all over the United States, Canada, and even parts of Europe travel to celebrate the Soybean Festival annually. This year, join the throng flocking to Martin, Tennessee for an exciting swath of events.

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UNIQUE MUSEUM

Overlooks the Beautiful Tennessee River

Few local facilities can match the Tennessee River Folklife Interpretive Center and Museum at Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park for the view or the rich

understanding of a rural, river-based economy and people. It is located at 1825 Pilot Knob Road in Eva, Tennessee, 38333. The center also features a small nature

exhibit, theater, Civil War interpretations, a gift shop and the Tennessee River Overlook at Pilot Knob, one of the highest points in West Tennessee and a magnificent

spot to gaze at the water and shoot photos.

The Center explores river navigation, logging, commercial fishing and musselling.

There are jon and brail boats on display, crafts, videos on park history and river life and an explanation of General Nathan Bedford Forrest's attack on Johnsonville.

Annual events include:
Easter Egg Hunt – Spring
Astronomy Day – Spring
Storytelling – third Saturday in May
Fishing Rodeo – on TWRA's free fishing day
Folk Life Festival – third Saturday in September
Haunted Trail – the Saturday one week before Halloween
Civil War Days – first Friday and Saturday in November
Pilot Knob 10K – second Saturday in November
Lighting of the Knob – Saturday after Thanksgiving

Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park offers over 25 miles of hiking trails, from one quarter to 20 miles, ranging from easy to rugged. Stop by the park office for a trail map. Lodging is available in seven cabins (two are pet friendly), which include decks overlooking the river. Each cabin can sleep up to eight people. There is one rustic cabin on a secluded ridge, built in the 1930s and renovated. RV, backcountry and primitive camping are featured. A separate campground is reserved for supervised youth groups. The group lodge can sleep 64.

The 2,650 acre park began as a local project during the Depression by the Works Progress Administration. It

opened in 1929 and later became part of the Tennessee State Park system. The management team participates in TVA's Green Power Switch and tracks energy use to find areas of improvement. NBF State Park is a proponent of Leave No Trace, a philosophy of outdoor recreation which encourages everyone to:

1. Plan ahead and prepare;
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces;
3. Dispose of waste properly;
4. Leave what you find;
5. Minimize campfire impacts;
6. Respect wildlife; and
7. Be considerate of others.

The park is named for Confederate General Nathan

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Bedford Forrest, a cavalry leader who attacked and destroyed the federal supply and munitions depot at Johnsonville on Trace Creek. His operations were centered around the Tennessee River, in the vicinity of the park and the town of Eva.

Five picnic pavilions are just off the main road and can be reserved up to two years in advance. Playgrounds are provided for softball, volleyball, horseshoes and disc golf.

Three boat access ramps are available. A Tennessee fishing license is required for those over 13. Small-

mouth, largemouth and striped bass, sauger, crappie, bream and catfish are common. Swimming is popular at the Eva Beach site, which is an unsupervised, sandy beach open to the public at no charge.

A Tripadvisor review said “What a great little museum that shows the way people lived on the Tennessee River in the early 1900s. It is a pretty drive up to the museum through the Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park. I will be going back with family and out of town guests.”

Volunteers and Friends can assist in protecting,

preserving and promoting the cultural and natural resources of Tennessee’s State Parks. Visit the website below to learn more. Opportunities are available for individuals, families and groups.

For more information, visit www.tnstateparks.com. There are no entry fees, but donations are encouraged. The Center is open year round, 8 am – 4:30 pm, and is ADA accessible, with handicapped parking and a ramp. The phone number is 731.593.6445.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2ND
Homeplace and Woodlands Nature Station at Land Between the Lakes
Opens for the Spring and Summer

MARCH 5TH
Dr. Suess Day at Land Between the Lakes
Woodlands Nature Station, Cadiz, KY

MARCH 11TH
Henry County Bicentennial Lunch & Learn
*Henry County Heritage Center
614 N. Poplar St,
Downtown Paris,
noon*

MARCH 13TH
Daylight Savings Time

MARCH 14TH - 19TH
Irish Day Celebration
*parade, carnival, music, arts & crafts, food, banquet, silent auction
downtown Erin, TN*

MARCH 17TH
St. Patrick’s Day

MARCH 20TH
First Day of Spring

APRIL 1ST
Henry County Bicentennial Lunch

& Learn
*Henry County Heritage Center
614 N. Poplar St,
Downtown Paris,
noon*

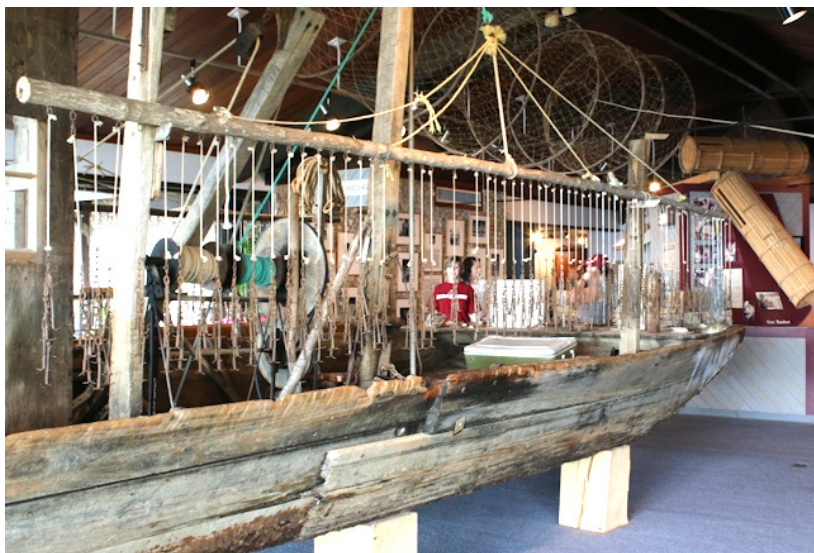
APRIL 1ST - 29TH
Home Schoolers Month at Land Between the Lakes
*Activities all month long
Woodlands Nature Station*

APRIL 8TH & 9TH
Downtown Spring Open House
shopping, food, music

Downtown Paris, TN, Friday 5pm, Saturday 8am

APRIL 9TH - 20TH
Paris Henry County Arts Council Artist Showcase
*exhibits by local artists
W. G. Rhea Library, Paris, TN*

APRIL 10TH
I Spy Up High Scavenger Hunt
*Land Between The Lakes
Woodland Nature Center, 10am - 4pm*



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APRIL 11TH - 15TH
Holy Week
Services
Easter Messages,
Music, Fellowship
Downtown Church-
es, Paris, TN 11:30
am

APRIL 17TH
Easter

APRIL 22ND
Henry County
Bicentennial Lunch
& Learn
Henry County
Heritage Center
614 N. Poplar St,
Downtown Paris,
noon

APRIL 23RD - 30TH
World’s Biggest
Fish Fry
fish fry, parade,
carnival, arts-
n-crafts, music,
rodeo, demolition
derby
Henry County
Fairgrounds &
Downtown Paris,
TN

APRIL 23RD – MAY 20TH
Paris Henry County
Arts Council Photo
Showcase
Exhibit by local
photographers
W. G. Rhea Library

MAY 7TH
Farmer’s Market
fresh produce,
baked goods
Downtown Murray,
KY, 7am-noon

MAY 8TH
Happy Mother’s
Day

MAY 14TH
Farmer’s Market
fresh produce,

baked goods
Downtown Murray,
KY, 7am-noon

MAY 20TH
Henry County
Bicentennial Lunch
& Learn
Henry County
Heritage Center
614 N. Poplar St,
Downtown Paris,
noon

MAY 21ST
Farmer’s Market
fresh produce,
baked goods
Downtown Murray,
KY, 7am-noon

MAY 28TH - 30TH
River Days at Land
Between the Lakes
Cruises, exhibits,
live animals
Woodlands Nature
Station
Memorial Day
Weekend

MAY 28TH & 29TH
Family Sunset
Canoe Trip
Land Between the
Lake
Woodlands Nature
Station, 6 - 8pm

MAY 28TH
Farmer’s Market
fresh produce,
baked goods
Downtown Murray,
KY, 7am-noon

MAY 30TH
Happy Memorial
Day

JUNE 4TH
Farmer’s Market
fresh produce,
baked goods
Downtown Murray,
KY, 7am-noon

JUNE 4TH
Henry County
Bicentennial Lunch
& Learn
Henry County
Heritage Center
614 N. Poplar St,
Downtown Paris,
noon

JUNE 11TH
Farmer’s Market
fresh produce,
baked goods
Downtown Murray,
KY, 7am-noon

JUNE 16TH - 19TH
Tennessee River
Jam Music Festival
music, food, excite-
ment
Paris Landing &
Paris, TN

JUNE 18TH
Farmer’s Market
fresh produce,
baked goods
Downtown Murray,
KY, 7am-noon

JUNE 19TH
Happy Father’s
Day

JUNE 21ST
First Day of Sum-
mer

JUNE 25TH
Farmer’s Market
fresh produce,
baked goods
Downtown Murray,
KY, 7am-noon

JULY 1ST & 2ND
PBR – Rodeo
Event
bull riding compe-
tition
Henry County
Fairgrounds, Paris,
TN

JULY 2ND
Farmer’s Market
fresh produce,
baked goods
Downtown Murray,
KY, 7am-noon

JULY 4TH
Independence Day

JULY 5TH
Farmer’s Market
fresh produce,
baked goods
Downtown Murray,
KY, 2:30-6pm

JULY 9TH
Farmer’s Market
fresh produce,
baked goods
Downtown Murray,
KY, 7am-noon

JULY 12TH
Farmer’s Market
fresh produce,
baked goods

Downtown Murray,
KY, 2:30-6pm

JULY 16TH
Farmer’s Market
fresh produce,
baked goods
Downtown Murray,
KY, 7am-noon

JULY 16TH
Water Fun Run
Poker Run on the
Lake
prizes, fun
Paris Landing
State Park, 9am

JULY 19TH
Farmer’s Market
fresh produce,
baked goods
Downtown Murray,
KY, 2:30-6pm

JULY 23RD
Farmer’s Market
fresh produce,
baked goods
Downtown Murray,
KY, 7am-noon

JULY 26TH
Farmer’s Market
fresh produce,
baked goods
Downtown Murray,
KY, 2:30-6pm

JULY 30TH
Farmer’s Market
fresh produce,
baked goods
Downtown Murray,
KY, 7am-noon

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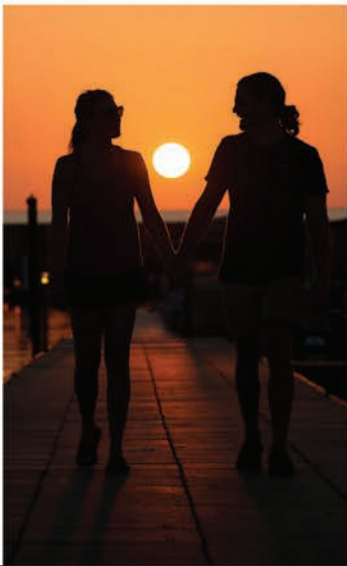
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